

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Joseph M. Geigel et al

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
AUTOMATIC LAYOUT OF IMAGES  
IN DIGITAL ALBUMS

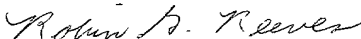
Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filed 29 December 2000

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

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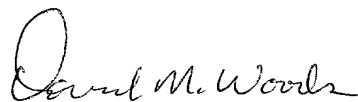
Sir:

**LETTER UNDER RULE 53**

Pursuant to Rule 53, the above-identified application, enclosed herewith  
(including specification and claims), is being filed without a signed declaration or  
assignment in the names of the inventors, Joseph M. Geigel and Alexander C.  
Loui. The declaration and assignment will be filed later.

Please address all correspondence to Thomas H. Close, Patent Legal Staff,  
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telephone communications to David M. Woods at (716) 477-5256.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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